



# City of Riverside Fire Department Public Safety Address



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Be Prepared And Keep Your Family FIRE SAFE**

**The Riverside City Fire Department would like to remind you that it is time to change your clocks forward on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Don't forget to replace your 9Volt batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. "Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths."**

**Fire accounts for more than \$2 billion in damage to homes each year. According to The National Fire Protection Association, they have researched and found almost two-thirds (63%) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.**

**Tragically, home fires kill thousands each year. Smoke detectors are an important tool and effective tool to alert you of a fire in your home and/or awaken you from sleep. Approximately 500 children on average are killed each year. If you have children, make sure they know what the alarm sounds like when activated. Now is a great time to practice a home fire drill with everyone in the house. This will ensure you have a plan and can exit safely to call 911.**

**The elderly are more at risk from fire due to a poor sense of smell, restricted or slow mobility and less resilience to the effects of smoke and burns. If you have a loved one that lives alone, please make sure to outfit their homes with smoke alarms. Make sure they take care with smoking materials, to ensure that all cigarette ends are safely extinguished and that they never smoke in bed.**

**If you do not have any detectors in your home, please purchase a few of them and install one on each level of your home or put one near every sleeping area and kitchen. You should also replace detectors every 10 years. This will provide an early warning alarm for your family, if there is a fire.**

**FIRE SPREADS FAST AND MAKES SMOKE. SMOKE CAN KILL. BE SMART. BE SAFE.**

